

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Events surrounding the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama, which takes place on January 20, 2009, will occur during the week in venues around Washington. Some of the events are open to the public.

"The inauguration of President-elect Obama will be a very exciting time to be in Washington," said Congressman Sam Farr. "I hope the Central Coast will be well-represented in our capital city in January and look forward to providing more information about events as they become available."

Tickets to the 56th Inaugural Ceremonies are available through House and Senate offices and are free of charge. Unfortunately, my office has already received nearly 1,000 ticket requests but will only have 198 tickets available for the swearing-in ceremony, so we can no longer accept requests. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have a separate allotments of tickets.

One opportunity open to the public is the inaugural parade. Each year, the new president travels from the Capitol to the White House down Pennsylvania Avenue. This is one opportunity to see the president on Inauguration Day, but make sure you arrive on the parade route early.

There are also a variety of parties, galas and more than a dozen balls around the city. The Presidential Inaugural Committee is responsible for these events that honor the newly-elected president. The committee, known as the PIC, has not yet been created but it will be soon and information about parties will be forthcoming. These events are not public and a very limited number of tickets will be available.

The California State Society will sponsor its Inaugural Fashion Show and Lunch on January 18 at the Historical Society of Washington D.C. Information and tickets for this event and other State Society events is available online at <http://www.californiastatesociety.org> .

More information is available online at <http://www.change.gov> and <http://inaugural.senate.gov> . I will also be providing more information over the coming weeks on my Web site at

<http://farr.house.gov>

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If you do travel to Washington, remember that the weather in January can be dangerously cold and wet, so please dress appropriately.

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